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Genealogy Notes from Emily January 2015

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Genealogy Notes from Emily

Emily Schroeder
Staff Genealogist



Key Websites

MSL Genealogy-
[www.maine.gov/msl/
services/genealogy/
index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml)

Vital Records Researcher
Card-[www.maine.gov/dhhs/
forms.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml)

MSL Classes-
[www.maine.gov/msl/
services/classes.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml)

Maine Genealogical Society-
www.maineroots.org

Maine Historical Society-
www.mainehistory.org

Maine State Archives-
www.maine.gov/sos/arc

Maine State Library
64 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

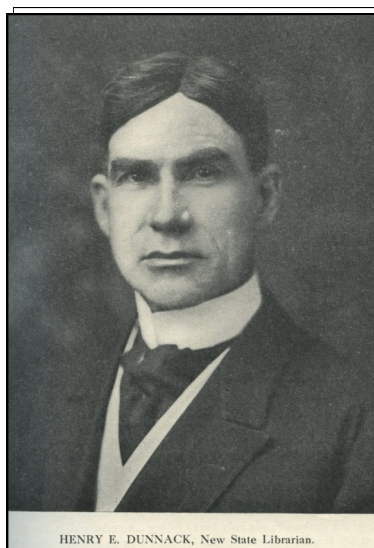
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Looking Back and Moving Forward... Genealogy in 1915 and 2015 At Maine State Library

A most interesting series of articles appeared in the "Bulletin of the Maine State Library", starting with the April, 1913 issue. A roster of the entire genealogy section was given, and continued through the October, 1914 edition. I didn't make a complete count, but a spot check of 153 titles revealed that we still own 145! That's a rate of 95%! The oldest family tome, Genealogy and History of the Family of Williams in America..., by Stephen Williams, has a publication date of 1847, and remains in the open stacks. Looking back at that April 1913 Bulletin, we see that a family chart was donated and deemed "A Genealogical Relic" (p. 2). It was entitled Record of the Family of Hate Evil Hall. Why was Hate Evil so important? The explanation continues on page 2: "Hate Evil hall was born in Dover, N.H., 1707. His father was one of three brothers who came from England and were amongst the early settlers of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Married Sarah Furbish of Kittery-moved from Dover to Falmouth and died Nov. 28, 1797, aged ninety years, *leaving four hundred and seventy-five descendants.*" (emphasis added-quite a legacy indeed!) The State Library no longer owns this, probably due to the need for preservation and proper storage which could not have been supplied at the time. There is a copy at the Peabody Essex Museum, and on



HENRY E. DUNNACK, New State Librarian.

further investigation, the text may be found in Volume 11 of Sprague's Journal of Maine History.

The genealogy collection of the 1915 era was much the same in content as it is today. Family histories were not restricted to Maine, and covered Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. They are still arranged alphabetically on our shelves, by the first family named in the title. We continue to subscribe to genealogical periodicals when appropriate; we have indexes, dictionaries and heraldry volumes, and many other references. The genealogy section is one of those areas where "old is good", and new information can only enhance what's already there. It had interest and value then, and still does 100 years later!

The year 1915 brought a new State Librarian to us, in one Henry Dunnack. Mr. Dunnack was a former Methodist minister, and noted speaker. His books include: The Maine Book (1920), Manual of Maine Government (1921), Maine Forts (1925) and Rural Life in Maine (1928). We have more about Mr. Dunnack in our vertical files. History has repeated itself again: in 2015, we have another new State Librarian: James Ritter. His experience includes the directorship of our Reader and Information Services Division, deputy directory of Camden Public Library, and employment in the banking world. Big guy, big smile, hard to miss.



Times have changed considerably, but both men share a passion for the library itself, its services and all its collections, including genealogy. We will continue to grow and meet our patrons' needs to the best of our ability. Thanks for all your support! 'Til next time!